

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SALT TWO II

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2002

S E C R E T USDEL SALT TWO II 0205

EXDIS/ SALT

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SECDEF

1. AT TODAY'S MEETING SEMENOV OPENED WITH A SHORT PRO FORMA AND PEDESTRIAN STATEMENT REITERATING THEIR POSITION ON CARRYING OVER THE NUMBERS IN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AND ADDING THERETO " STRATEGIC AVIATION" INCLUDING FBS FOR THE US. I MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT REITERATING THE 2,350 AGREEMENT AND LAYING OUT THE TIMING ALTERNATIVES FOR COMPLYING WITH THE AGREED PERMANENT- AGREEMENT CEILING. WE ASSUME BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT A PERMANENT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED WILL ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 1977 EXPIRATION OF INTERIM AGREEMENT. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR OPERATIVE DATE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH AGREED CEILING TO BE DATE WHEN PERMANENT AGREEMENT COMES INTO FORCE. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE THAT PERMANENT AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE THAT LIMITS IN INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD REAMIN IN EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 1977, WHICH WOULD BE DATE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DEILING. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE SOMETIME IN BETWEEN THOSE TWO DATES. I DID NOT SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY DATE AFTER OCTOBER 1977. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT 2,350 WAS A CEILING REPRESENTING A UPPER LIMIT, WHICH COULD NOT BE EXCEEDED BY EITHER SIDE AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT US WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER A PROGRAM FOR SUBSEQUENT REDUCTIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO TRUSOV'S QUESTION AT LAST MEETING AND CONTINUED SOVIET REFERENCES TO NECESSITY OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT " GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER FACTORS," KLOSSON MADE STATEMENT (SEE SEPTTEL) POINTING OUT THAT WE FELT, " GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER FACTORS" FACORED SOVIET
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UNION, BUT POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF DROPPING THIS INHERENTLY SUBJECTIVE SUBJECT TO GET AT CENTRAL TASK. NITZE REPLIED TO SHCHUKIN'S QUESTION AT PREVIOUS MEETING ON SLBMS, POINTING OUT THEY PLAY A DIFFERENT ROLE WITH REGARD TO STRATEGIC STABILITY THAN ICBMS (SEE SEPTTEL FOR TEXT). WITH RESPECT TO SHCHUKIN'S QUESTION ON BOMBERS, NITZE POINTED OUT OUR PROPOSAL FOR BAN ON ASMS WITH RANGE EXCEEDING 3,000 KILOMETERS.

3. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY SCHCHUKIN ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD "PARTIAL AGREEMENTS" ON "INDIVIDUAL MATTERS" CONTAINED IN SOVIET APRIL 6 PROPOSAL, I IMMEDIATELY POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD TAKEN THEIR PROPOSALS ON THESE MATTERS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR MAY 8 PROPOSAL, AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT ON THESE MATTERS ONLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF OVERALL PERMANENT AGREEMENT. IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION SHCHUKIN IN EFFECT ASKED NITZE WHY WE WERE OPPOSED TO PARTIAL AGREEMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL MATTERS PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO PERMANENT AGREEMENT, WHEN WE OURSELVES WERE PROPOSING PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON MIRVS. NITZE REPLIED THAT MIRVS WERE A TIME SENSITIVE QUESTION, WHEREAS THE "INDIVIDUAL MATTERS" MENTIONED BY SOVIETS WERE NOT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO LONG AND SOMEWHAT RAMBLING STATEMENT BY TRUSOV, CHARGING THAT OUR PROPOSALS HAD OMITTED LONG-RANGE AIRBORNE STRATEGIC MISSILES AND WE HAD NOT CLARIFIED OUR ATTITUDE ON THIS, I IMMEDIATELY POINTED TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR BAN ON ASMS WITH RANGE EXCEEDING 3,000 KILOMETERS, SAYING THAT, WHILE HE COULD DISAGREE WITH OUR DEFINITION, WE HAD NOT IGNORED SUBJECT AND HE HAD GIVEN NO PRECISE DEFINITION OF HIS OWN.

5. IN MY PRIVATE TALK WITH SEMENOV I SAID THAT I HAD NOW LAID OUR PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE AND WHILE "I DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE SPEECHES TO HIM" ABOUT THEM, I WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO AMPLIFY AND ANSWER QUESTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS HE SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON OUR PROPOSALS PRIOR TO JUNE 18, BUT EXPECTED THAT BREZHNEV WOULD NOW BE CONCENTRATING ON ALL ASPECTS OF HIS VISIT TO THE US. JOHNSON

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